



Saguaro National Park (West)

Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates the day of the program. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs.

November 21 1:45 p.m. **Wasson Peak** *Moon Hike: 7 hours, 8 miles roundtrip*

This hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy a 360-degree view of the sunset before descending by the light of the moon. The hike is at an easy-to-moderate pace but is considered difficult due to elevation gain and hiking after dark. *Ages 12 and older.* **Reservations required; 733-5158**

November 22 3:45 p.m. **Twilight Glow to Moon Shadows** *Moon hike: 3 ½ hours, 2 ½ miles*

This walk bridges sunset into moonlight, letting hikers experience the desert in both the glow of twilight and the light of the waxing moon. It ascends a hill with a gentle, packed slope, then changes trails to descend a sandy wash. The hike is completed with a return on a dirt road. *Ages 10 and older.* **Reservations required: 733-5158.**

November 23 3:00 p.m. **Sunset Hike** *Moon Hike: 3 ½ hours, 3 ½ miles*

Discussions of water, geology, and plants will be highlights of mini-talks along this route, which gains 700 feet (with some switchbacks near the top) before reaching a ridgeline for sunset. The descent is by the light of the moon. *Ages 10 and older.* **Reservations required; 733-5158**

November 24 3:45 p.m. **Moonlight Reflections** *Moon Hike: 2 ½ hours, 2 miles*

This new hike is the shortest and easiest of the monthly moon hikes offered during the winter season. Covering 2 miles in 2 ½ hours, this hike begins on flat terrain, then follows a sandy wash before climbing a terraced hillside that features low, well-defined, and widely spaced steps. After resting at a view point, hikers will descend and then return on a dirt road in the light of the moon. *Ages 10 and older.*

Reservations required; 733-5158

November 25 6:00 p.m. **Moonrise Over The Mountains** *Night Patio Presentation: 45 minutes*

Once again, music will fill the air as we watch the full moon rise over the mountains and the cactus forest while our version of a "campfire" blazes. Guitarist-singer-songwriter Mark William will perform, as will Native American flute player Robert Hval. Please bring a folding chair and a blanket or jacket, as the evening may be chilly. *All ages welcome; no pets or picnics, please. Wheelchair accessible.* **No reservations necessary.**

November 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 26, 30 11:15 a.m. **Spiny, Shady, and COOL!** *Walk: 30 minutes, 100 yards*

Also, **November 6, 20** at 10:15 a.m. Come for a short walk and discover the great variety of cacti that inhabit this unique and fascinating desert.

November 7, 14, 21, 28 9:45 a.m. **The Plants Tell All** *Walk: 2 hours, 1 ½ miles*

Plants are the foundation of the web of life. Join a park naturalist to learn the secrets of what ties the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert together. Plant survival, insects and spiders, birds and mammals -- nothing is off limits for discussion on this discovery trek through the desert. For this moderate walk, closed-toed shoes, a hat, and water are required.

November 7, 28 10:15 a.m. **Signs of Life in the Desert** *Walk: 45 minutes, ¼ mile*

The desert appears barren and lifeless. But is it? Desert wildlife is shy and secretive, and much of it comes out just at night. Most of them leave signs, however, that they have been here. We can discover who they are once we learn to read the signs. Join a park ranger for a short walk to look for these signs, and explore the lives of desert plants and animals. Wear closed-toe shoes for this walk that is mostly in a sandy wash.

November 9 10:15 a.m. **A Hohokam Woman's Day** *Walk: 30 minutes, 100 yards*

Join us as we try to help a Hohokam woman get through the trials and tribulations she may have experienced back in A.D. 400. We will look at desert plants and how she may have used them for medicinal solutions and foods for her family. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 3, 17 3:15 p.m. **How Do They Do It?** *Walk: 15 minutes, 100 yards*

Discover how the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert have adapted to the harsh conditions of this unique environment. **(This program also is offered in Spanish at 12:15 p.m. Nov. 3, 17).** *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 3, 17 12:15 p.m. ¿Como Pueden Sobrevivir? (Spanish version of “How Do They Do It?”.)
Charla en Español donde discutiremos como las plantas y animales del desierto Sonorense se han adaptado a través de los años para poder sobrevivir y florecer en nuestro único y duro ambiente. **(This program also is offered in English at 3:15 p.m. Nov. 3, 17.)** *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 11:15 a.m. Play Sonoran Desert Bingo! Game: 1 hour
Learn about the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert while enjoying a rousing version of Bingo! Get five in a row – down, across, or diagonally – and win a non-monetary prize. First come, first served. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 21 2:15 p.m. The CCC in the Tucson Mountains Talk: 45 minutes
The Civilian Conservation Corps was launched in the midst of The Great Depression as an employment program to take young men off the streets and give them jobs restoring the country's depleted soil and forest resources. Much of this involved building the infrastructures of public facilities in the Tucson area, including many of the stone structures and trails at Saguaro National Park and Tucson Mountain Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 4, 18 10:15 a.m. Sonoran Secrets to Desert Survival Walk: 60 minutes, 250 yards
Stroll the Cactus Garden and identify the most common hazards hidden in the desert, uncover survival strategies of native plants and animals, and acquire practical tips to ensure your safety. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 11, 25 10:15 a.m. Mountain Lions: Beyond the Myth Talk: 45 minutes
Envision a puma stalking its prey, then uncover the true nature of this elusive but essential predator. Misunderstood, maligned, and nearly eradicated by settlers, the mountain lion remains threatened by human encroachment.

November 5, 12, 19, 26 10:15 a.m. Living With Giants Talk: 45 minutes
The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 6, 13, 20, 27 2:15 p.m. Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool Talk: 30 minutes
Lizards are small denizens of the desert that are a critical component of our desert community. Find out what it means when they do pushups or exhibit other odd behaviors. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 19 3:15 p.m. Javelina: Our Desert Neighbors Talk: 30 minutes
Also, November 20, 26, 27, 28 29, 30 Sometimes referred to as the “desert pig,” the javelina is not a pig at all. Learn about this intriguing creature and how it survives in this arid environment. **(This program also will be given in Spanish at 12:15 p.m. Nov. 7, 28)** *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 7, 28 12:15 a.m. Jabalíes, Nuestros Vecinos Del Desierto Talk: 30 minutes
(Spanish version of Javelina: Our Desert Neighbors) Usted está invitado a acompañar a un naturalista del parque durante su presentación “Jabalíes, Nuestros Vecinos del Desierto.” A veces referido como el cerdo del desierto, averigüe por qué el jabalí no es un cerdo. Descubra la historia natural de este fascinante animal y cómo se las arregla para sobrevivir en este ambiente árido. **(This program also will be given in English at 3:15 p.m. Nov. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28 29, 30.)** *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 10, 24 11:15 a.m. Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards
Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

November 23 at 11:15 a.m.; November 30 at 10:15 a.m. Coyotes: God's Dog Talk: 30-45 minutes
You never know who or what you'll meet in the desert, including coyotes. Learn fact, myth, and fiction about these interesting desert inhabitants. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 10, 24 3:15 p.m. Whales in the Desert Talk: 45 minutes
Learn about the unique connection between whales and the Sonoran Desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

November 11, 18, 25 11:15 a.m. Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat Talk and Walk: 45 minutes
For all of life, “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts” is true. The iconic Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world.

November 1, 7, 8, 9, 15, 28, 29 2:15 p.m. Homesteading Adventures Talk: 30 minutes
Also, November 21 at 3:15 p.m. The Hispanic women from homesteading families in the Tucson area left records of their adventures, and a ranger reads some of these fascinating first-person accounts. *Wheelchair accessible.*